

**From:** JGSUTILITY@aol.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/8/01 7:52pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Anti-Trust Settlement

Att: Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney

As a consumer I would like to think that there exists adequate protection from both State and Federal government to ensure that we are not subject to the whims and abuse of the marketplace.

In today's transportation highway a virtual monopoly exists in the oil industry. We have seen no alternative that has succeeded in the marketplace dominated by such friendly competitors. Choice is a sad joke in this area.

We cannot afford to allow the same mistake to happen on the information highway. We have seen Microsoft market defective products and charge us for patches to correct them. We have seen them bully their way and intimidate potential innovators to either sellout or enter niches that tag on to their monopoly.

Apple's existence is at Microsoft's pleasure. It serves them to have the lame dog still in the dog race. We need remedies in place to ensure that real competition and choice develops. One would think that the taunting and ridiculous self-serving proposals that Microsoft has offered would be sufficient to convince the DOJ that any handcuffs or self-monitoring punishments are nothing but a joke to Microsoft. They feel that the laws were not written for them and so far they have been right.

What is needed are forceful punishments such as forfeiture of sales, not profits, obtained through non-compliance plus a fine sufficient enough to jar the share price. This is the only action that Microsoft understands. Anything less is like trying to placate a carnivore with tofu.

We have spent a great deal of PUBLIC money to arrive at a finding that Microsoft engages in monopolistic activities. The public deserves a significant return on its investment. Anything less is making a mockery of the process and will fuel the further disconnect of the people from their government.

I believe that Microsoft is well able to compete in a leveled playing field and I will continue to buy their products as I have in the past. My only fear is that without forceful government oversight and expensive damages for abusive behavior my interest in their products will move from a decision of minuscule choice to a decision of no-choice.

I urge you to fight this battle, figuratively speaking, till your last breath for the benefit of all of us.

Respectfully,

Jack G. Simke  
Burlingame, CA

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